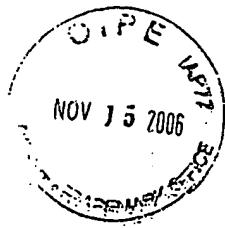


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| Applicant(s): | Bicek et al. | Examiner: | Nguyen, V.X. |
| Serial No.: | 09/974,653 | Group Art Unit: | 3734 |
| Confirmation No.: | 9912 | Docket: | 760-49 RCE |
| Filed: | October 10, 2001 | Dated: | November 13, 2006 |
| For: | STENT DESIGN WITH SHEATH ATTACHMENT MEMBERS | | |

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Commissioner for Patents
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Signed: Mary J. Tauscher

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 13, 2006, please reconsider the patentability of the claims of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.